

3

Animal Product
Manual

Reference

Trophies

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Introduction

The *Trophies* section covers ruminant and swine trophies that include hides and skins, horns, hoofs, tusks, and other bony tissues; and bird trophies of the entire carcass, the eviscerated carcass, or only the skin and feathers with head and feet attached.

Trophies are usually obtained during hunting expeditions. When a trophy is taxidermy finished, it has been professionally prepared, stuffed, and mounted ready for exhibition. Such completely finished trophies are allowed **unrestricted** entry. Look for evidence of professional mounting and proper treatment. When in doubt, regulate the trophy as **not** being taxidermy finished.



Swine hides from regions affected with ASF are allowed **unrestricted** entry **only if** they are fully mounted and ready for display or exhibition.

Consider one to two skulls or horns as trophies or souvenirs, and regulate them as such. Also regulate the following as trophies:

- ◆ Skulls or horns that have been lacquered or painted
- ◆ Clean, dry, cattle skulls free from undried pieces of hide, flesh, and sinew, imported for display

This section does **not** cover the following:

- ◆ Antlers or bones entering as commercial importations. Consider a large quantity of unfinished antlers or bones as a commercial importation and regulate as bones rather than trophies. Go to the *Reference* section ***Bones and Related By-Products***



Bones and antlers are regulated from all countries because of anthrax.

Look for ticks on trophies. Keep in mind that the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior (FWS) may regulate the trophies under wildlife laws. That is, The Endangered Species Act (ESA) and The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Determining if the Trophies Were Treated



Before inspecting trophies, try to learn whether the shipment was treated. Use the steps that follow to guide your inspection and protect your health.

To determine if trophies have been treated, do as follows:

1. Check container markings, labels, and accompanying documents to learn if the container or its contents were treated. If the accompanying documents indicate that the trophies were treated, skip to 3., below. If the documents tell you nothing, go to 2., below.
2. If you didn't learn anything from the labels or accompanying documents, carefully examine the container and its contents for pesticide residue. If you detect a chemical odor, suspect that the trophies were treated. If pesticides are suspected, recheck the documentation and labeling to learn what the pesticide is. By knowing what is the pesticide, you can take the most appropriate action if pesticide poisoning occurs. If you're unable to identify the suspected pesticide, hold the material and refuse to inspect until the importer or the importer's agent provides you with this information.
3. Before examining treated shipments, have the importer or the importer's representative open and aerate the containers.
4. Once opened, don't breathe the air around the open container. Work in a well-ventilated area.
5. Have the importer or the importer's representative remove the contents from the shipping container for inspection. If there is pesticide residue, have the importer or importer's representative vacuum the contents and container.

6. If it is necessary for you to touch any of the material, put on latex gloves. To increase your protection, handle the material as little as possible.
7. Once you complete your inspection, appropriately discard the latex gloves. Wash your hands with soap and water.
8. If the shipment showed evidence of having been treated, or the importer volunteers this information but the document and the container were **not** so marked, then mark the documents and the container. Mark them to alert other people who may have to handle the shipment.

Handling Nonhuman Primate Trophies



Follow these guidelines when handling and inspecting shipments of restricted animal trophies containing nonhuman primate parts or specimens, as declared in the manifest. **Never** allow shipments of wholly nonhuman primate material to go forward to an approved establishment for processing. On such shipments, **immediately** have Customs notify the Center for Disease Control.

Follow these guidelines for handling nonhuman primate trophies:

1. Have the broker or the owner's or consignee's representative open and remove the contents from the shipping containers for your inspection.



Under no circumstances are PPQ officers to open this type of cargo at the port on their own.

If there is evidence that the shipment contains a mix of trophies (both nonhuman primate and non-primate), then the shipping containers are **not** opened **nor** presented to PPQ for inspection. The entire shipment must be sent by common carrier to a USDA approved establishment accompanied by VS Form 16-78. The form should indicate that the shipment has **not** been inspected.

2. Advise U.S. Customs to inform the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that a shipment has arrived containing nonhuman primate materials. Also, advise the broker that the CDC has authority over the nonhuman primate material in the shipment.
3. Before inspection, put on disposable plastic gloves and a dust mask to prevent exposure to potentially harmful substances and agents.
4. As you inspect, be careful **not** to tear or puncture the gloves.
5. Upon completion of your inspection, put the mask and gloves in a double plastic bag.

6. Incinerate or autoclave the double plastic bag with the gloves and mask inside.
7. Wash your hands thoroughly with a disinfectant soap.



VS permits are **never** issued to authorize the entry of trophies.


Locator

TABLE 3-17-1 Determine Where to Find the Regulatory Action on Trophies

If the importation is:	And the trophies are:	Then:
Taxidermy finished and ready for exhibit (explained in the Introduction)	→	RELEASE
Not taxidermy finished	Feathers only	GO to Table 3-17-2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Capes with or without feathers ◆ Hides ◆ Skins with or without feathers 	GO to Table 3-17-3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Bones ◆ Entire carcasses (whether eviscerated or not) ◆ Horns, hoofs, tusks, skulls, teeth ◆ Any other bony tissue with or without hide, flesh, or sinew attached 	GO to Table 3-17-7

Feathers Only

TABLE 3-17-2 Determine Action to Take on Feathers Only

If the feathers are:	And the importation is:	Then:
Free from blood, skin, and manure		RELEASE
Contaminated with blood, skin, or manure	Consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete the form)
	Not consigned to an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

Hides

TABLE 3-17-3 Determine Where to Find the Regulatory Action on Hides

If the animal origin is:	And the country of origin is known to be:	And:	Then:
Poultry and game birds	Free from END	→	RELEASE
	Affected with END	→	GO to Table 3-17-4
Ruminants	Free from FMD	Mexico	See Fresh Hides or Skins of Ruminants from Mexico on page 3-17-7
		Other than Mexico	GO to Table 3-17-5
	Affected with FMD	→	REGULATE under Hides and Related By-Products
Swine	Free from FMD and ASF	→	RELEASE
	Free from ASF, but affected with FMD	→	REGULATE under Hides and Related By-Products
	Affected with ASF, regardless of the FMD status	→	GO to Table 3-17-12
Other than one of the three classes identified above (you must be able to verify that the class is not avian, ruminant, or swine)		→	RELEASE

TABLE 3-17-4 Capes with Feathers and Skins of Poultry and Game Birds (Ostrich Skin) That Are Not Taxidermy Finished, and from a Country Known to Be Affected with END



If the article is:	And arriving from:	And is:	Then:
Unfinished (not put through a tanning process)	Mexico at a land border port		GO to Table 3-17-9
	◆ Other than Mexico ◆ If Mexico, not at a land border port	Consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
		Not consigned to an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)
Finished (tanned)			RELEASE

TABLE 3-17-5 Hides or Skins of Ruminants from Other Than Mexico That Are Not Taxidermy Finished, and from a Country Known to Be Free of FMD

If the hide or skin is:	Then:
Hard dried, such that it is stiff and not easily bent or flexed and the underside is dry and dark	RELEASE
Not hard dried, but soft and easily bent or flexed with the underside being moist, light, and having a gelatinous texture	REGULATE under Hides and Related By-Products

Fresh Hides or Skins of Ruminants from Mexico

Allow tanned hides unrestricted entry. If deer skins or other hides that are still on the carcass, then REFUSE ENTRY.

Green animal hides from any species and hides and racks that are free from ticks may be authorized entry if any of the following conditions are met:

- ◆ INSPECT and RELEASE tick-free hides and racks that are accompanied by a certificate signed by a veterinary official of the Mexican Government stating that the hides and racks have been found to be free of ticks and have been treated with an acaricide
- ◆ INSPECT and RELEASE tick-free hides and racks that lack the certification described in the bulleted item above, but were dipped at a Mexican cattle export facility. Such treated hides must be packed in heavy plastic bags
- ◆ If ticks are found, ALLOW entry seven days after the hides were treated with an acaricide. In such cases, reinspect for ticks. See additional options the importer may take in [Table 3-17-6](#)

- ◆ If hides are frozen solid to a non-pliable state (rock-hard) and the hides are accompanied by a written statement signed by the owner that the hides have been frozen for at least 24 hours, then RELEASE

Importers may take other options for infested or uncertified hides. See [Table 3-17-6](#).

TABLE 3-17-6 Options Importers May Take for Fresh Hides or Skins of Ruminants from Mexico Infected with Ticks or Lacking Official Certification

If the importer chooses to:	Then:
Return the hide or skin to Mexico ¹	ENSURE that the hide or skin is returned to Mexico
Consign the hide or skin to an approved establishment	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. ENSURE that the importer packages the hide or skin in a 4-to-5 mil plastic bag which is tightly sealed to prevent ticks from escaping. If horns are present, tape them up so that they cannot poke a hole in the bag, or wrap an additional 5-mil plastic bag around the horns2. AUTHORIZE movement by the importer with VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete the form)3. RECORD the importer's driver's license number and vehicle's tag number on VS Form 16-78
Have the hide or skin incinerated under PPQ supervision	SUPERVISE the incineration

- 1 Returned articles will **not** be eligible for reentry into the United States until 7 days after they have been treated with an acaricide and found free of ticks on reinspection.

Bones

TABLE 3-17-7 Bones and Other Bony Tissue (Antlers, Horns, Teeth, Tusks, Etc.)







if the animal origin is:	And the bones are:	And are:	Then:
Poultry and game birds		From a country free from END	RELEASE
		From a country affected with END	GO to Table 3-17-8
Ruminant	Clean, dry, and free from blood or tissue	Imported as a fully-finished trophy or consigned to a museum	RELEASE
		Not imported as a fully-finished trophy nor consigned to a museum	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with appropriate option (see Table 2-2-11)
	Not clean and dry or have blood or tissue adhering	From a country free from BSE and FMD	RELEASE
		From a country affected with FMD only	REGULATE under Bones and Related By-Products
		From a country affected with BSE or BSE in combination with FMD	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate option (see Table 2-2-11)
Swine		From a country free from ASF and FMD	RELEASE
		From a country free from ASF, but affected with FMD	GO to Table 3-17-11
		From a country affected with ASF, regardless of the disease status concerning FMD	GO to Table 3-17-12
Horse or another animal that does not fit into one of the above classes such as elephant, tiger, or rhinoceros			RELEASE

TABLE 3-17-8 Entire Poultry and Game Bird Carcasses or Bony Tissue with or without Skin, Flesh, or Sinew of Poultry That Are Not Taxidermy Finished from a Country Known to Be Affected with END

If the trophy is:	And the country of origin is:	And the port of entry is:	Then:
A game bird	Mexico	A land border port	GO to Table 3-17-9
		Other than a land border port	GO to Table 3-17-10
	A country other than Mexico	—————→	
Other than a game bird	—————→	—————→	


TABLE 3-17-9 Game Birds from Mexico for Importation at a Land Border Port

If the individual chooses:	Then:
To take the birds to an approved establishment (which may be in another State) using his or her private vehicle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COMPLETE VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form) 2. RECORD the driver's license number of the importer and the vehicle license number on VS Form 16-78 3. ALLOW the importer to take the birds to the approved establishment
To send the birds by common carrier to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS Form 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
Not to have the birds processed in an approved establishment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

TABLE 3-17-10 Poultry and Game Birds Other Than Game Birds from Mexico for Importation at a Land Border Port

If the importation is:	Then:
Consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
Not consigned to an approved establishment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

TABLE 3-17-11 Bones of Swine That Are Not Taxidermy Finished from a Country Known to Be Affected with FMD

If the bones are:	And the importation is:	Then:
Clean, dry, and free from undried pieces of cape, flesh, and sinew		RELEASE
Not clean, dry, and free from undried pieces of cape, flesh, or sinew	Consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
	Not consigned to an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

Unfinished Swine Trophies from a Country Affected with ASF

TABLE 3-17-12 Unfinished Swine Trophies from a Country Affected with ASF

And the importation is:	Then:
Consigned to an approved establishment	AUTHORIZE shipment under seal with VS 16-78 (see Appendix K to complete form)
Not consigned to an approved establishment	1. DO NOT RELEASE the HOLD 2. PROVIDE the importer with the appropriate options (see Table 2-2-11)

